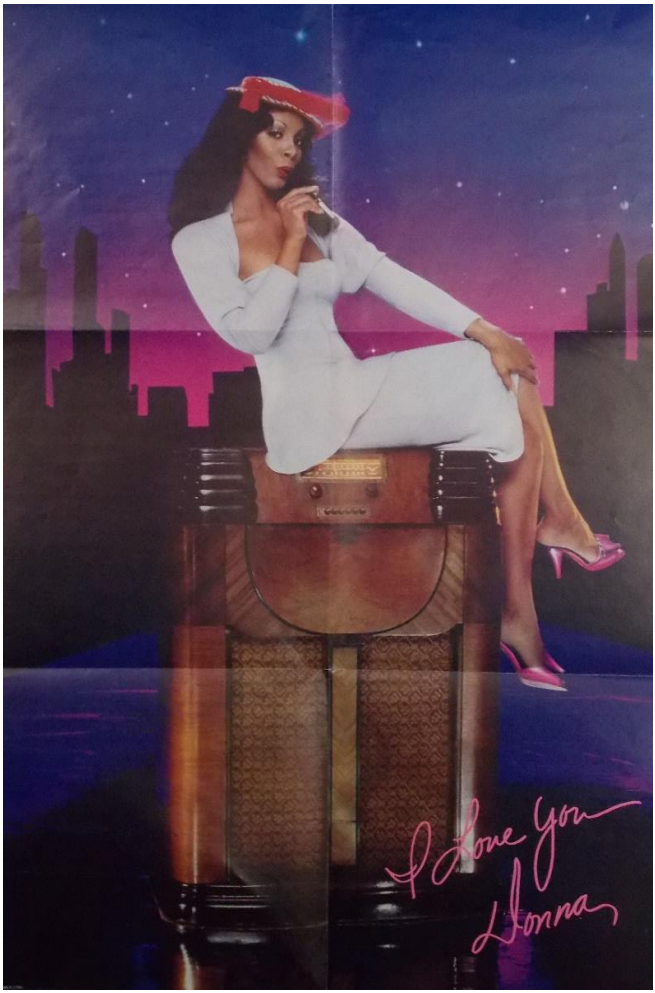
The Call Letter

August 2021
Vol 47, #8



Poster from Donna Summer's '79 LP ‘On the Radio’

The Northwest Vintage Radio Society

Post Office Box 82379
Portland, Oregon 97282-0379

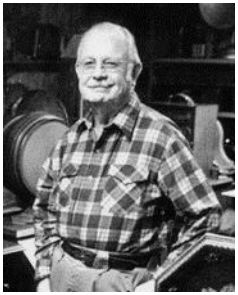
The Northwest Vintage Radio Society is a non-profit historical society incorporated in the State of Oregon. Since 1974 the Society has been dedicated to the preservation and enjoyment of "Vintage Radio" and wireless equipment.

Membership in the Society is open to all who are actively interested in historic preservation. The dues are $25.00 for domestic membership, due on January 1st of each year (prorated quarterly).

The Call Letter has been a monthly publication since 1974. It was originated with the founder, Bob Bilbie, and our first president, Harley Perkins. Through several editors and with the assistance of numerous society members, the Call Letter has continued to be a publication that informs members of the society's business and that supports the hobby of collecting, preserving, and restoring vintage radios.

Society meetings are held the second Saturday of each month at the Abernethy Grange Hall at 15745 S. Harley Ave. in Oregon City, Oregon. They convene at or about 9:30 AM for the purpose of displaying radios, conducting Society business, and exchanging information. Guests are welcome at all Society meetings and functions (except board meetings).

Other Society functions include guest speakers, auctions, radio shows, and radio sales which are advertised in the Call Letter and are held in and around Portland.



With each issue of the Call Letter, we remember Jim Mason, a charter member of the society who remained active until his death in 1999. A generous bequest from Jim's estate ensures the vitality of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society, and continued publication of the Call Letter.

Society Officers

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On the Cover

Poster from Donna Summer's 1979 double LP 'On the Radio' - Dan Howard

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Announcements

2021 meeting - Sat. Aug. 14, 9:30 am at the Abernethy Grange
August 2021 Monthly Feature - Radios with a S in their name
August Tech Talk - Cliff Tuttle - Atwater Kent
August Tube of the Month - Sylvania tubes
Leads and Needs - The Swap Shop is for members' classified ads. Ads are free and can either be permanent or temporary.
Editor's Note - Please have September Call Letter contributions in by Sunday, July 25. Articles & Ads welcome. (Tube labels too).

Visit our web site at: www.nwvrs.com
Find us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/nwvrs

President's Message for August 2021
by Pat Kagi

I want to thank everyone who participated in our annual Summer Picnic and especially those that helped set up and especially those that stayed late to clean up. We may need to form a picnic committee so that we can better advertise this event and also insure that we aren't missing food items and not have so much duplication.

You don't want to miss the Free Table and the auction BEFORE the meeting starts on August 14th. Be sure to get there early to get dibs on some great items this month. We will also have some good items up for auction.

PSARA has canceled their radio sale in Shoreline this year, but we will have them join us and have a free radio sale at Fletcher Anderson's on Saturday, August 21st. Chehalis is mid-way between Portland and Seattle. There are restroom facilities, water, tents for protection against the elements if necessary and plenty of free parking. We may need someone to bring a generator to power our electrical devices.

I hope everyone had fun at our summer picnic and that the food was good enough that you want Arlene's Cuisine to come back again next year. It looks like a lot of you had fun digging through the free table to come up with some treasures. I expect there will be some more items on the free table AND a pre-meeting auction when we meet back at the Abernethy Grange on Saturday, August 14th. Those that attended the auction after the picnic, saw some good deals and what do you think of that Scott 800B with 24 tubes and dual chrome chassis? A lot of people were wishing that they had a truck to take that beauty home, especially at that low price!

Don't forget that we will have our first every joint PSARA/NWVRS swap meet in Chehalis on Saturday, August 21st. This location is mid-way between Seattle and Portland and is a good alternative since the PSARA event at Shoreline was canceled this year. Tell your friends, print out and place flyers everywhere and remember that the public is invited!

Thanks to Sonny for creating the flyer for the August 21th PSARA/NWVRS joint radio swap meet! Print these out and pass them around! - Pat

VP's Message for August 2021
by Franklin Terry Ouchida

Monthly Features - Radios start with a "S"
August Tech Talk - Cliff Tuttle - Atwater Kent
Share your latest project or passion Please let me know if you are interested in doing a Tech Talk Live or on Zoom.
Anyone without email access that would like a phone call with urgent NWVRS information. Please contact me by phone to be put on a call list.
Enjoy Radio Talk? Join us every Wednesday at 7:00 pm for WRNZ on Zoom for a radio chat session!
It's just some of my thoughts. - Franklin Terry Ouchida

NWVRS Meeting Minutes - July 10, 2021
Recorded by Secretary Liles Garcia

President Pat Kagi called the July 10 meeting of the NWVRS to order at 9:30 AM. Our meeting today was held using the Zoom software. Members pledged allegiance to our nation's flag. Members discussed how to mail out the "Call Letter" earlier during the week before our meeting. Bob Duell is recovering from back surgery—get well quick, Bob!! Tom Hoskins has a Kiel table radio for sale.

We will have our annual picnic on July 24 at the Abernethy Grange. Hamburgers and hotdogs will be available; and we need some side dishes from members. If possible, bring a table because our picnic will be outdoors. Mike McCrow told the group about a car swap meet and show in Chehalis on August 7. The Monthly Feature is Radios With an 'R' In Their Name.

Liles Garcia showed a Browning-Drake 5 tube radio. Jerry Hertel showed a Roberts three-band radio. Dan Howard showed a cigarette lighter that is made to look like an RCA tube. Dick Howard showed a Radiomarine crystal radio, a Radion crystal radio, and a Radiola III radio. Larry Tobkins showed an RCA T7-5 radio that he has restored. Mike McCrow showed the group a Raytheon tube and told the group about the Raytheon Company. Robbie Robinson showed the group a Raytheon type 78 tube.

We will have a Swap Meet on October 9 in Aurora. We can set up on Friday afternoon. The meeting was adjourned.

Events Calendar

August 14th is the NWVRS meeting at the Abernethy Grange
August 21st is the PSARA/NWVRS August Swap meet in Chehalis, WA
September 11th is the Trash and Bash at the Abernethy Grange
October 9th is the Fall Radio Swap meet in Aurora
November 13th is the NWVRS meeting at the Abernethy Grange
December 11th is the NWVRS Christmas Party at the Abernethy Grange
Please double check these dates, but I think they are correct. Please help Franklin come up with some Tech Talks!
Most likely we will have an October auction at the Abernethy Grange from items donated. (October 9th we are in Aurora, but we can probably get the Abernethy Grange one Saturday that month). - Pat

Pleasant Valley antique radio show and sale. NWVRS and PSARA are having a combined radio sale on the 21st of August. All vendors please provide your own tables and chairs. Free RV parking is available for both events. Free space for vendors. This event also will start at 10:00 AM. These events are on Mr. Fletcher Anderson's private property, so please leave your area like you found it! Both events are located at: 1354 Pleasant Valley Rd. Chehalis, WA 98532. For questions please contact Mike McCrow, 503-730-4639. soundmikey14@gmail.com

Tube of the Month: Sylvania Tube Company by Mike McCrow

In 1901 Frank Poor at the age of 21 invested $3500.00 in the Merritt Manufacturing Co. The company would renew burnt out light bulbs. Soon after Poor bought out Merritt and became the sole owner, changing the name to Bay State Lamp Co. The business did well until around 1913 when the new tungsten filament became available and rebuilding old bulbs became impractical. At this time the company name was changed to Hygrade. They began manufacturing new bulbs using the tungsten wire. Expansion came with profit, and new plants were acquired in St. Mary's and Emporium PA.

During the early 1920's when consumer radio began it was a natural progression to start making vacuum tubes for radio. Development began in 1924 after Frank's brother Walter joined the company. The company again changed its name to Hygrade Sylvania. In 1928 they marketed their first vacuum tube. By the early 1930's a deal was made with Philco. Philco was one of the largest radio manufactures in the world and they contracted Hygrade Sylvania to make their vacuum tubes. By 1936 they

were making 321 types of tubes made in three plants. In 1937 the number of lamp types were over 2000. In 1938 the company marketed its first fluorescent lamp, bringing its major lines to four - incandescent lamps, fluorescent lamps, radio tubes, and fluorescent fixtures. After Pearl Harbor in early 1942 Hygrade Sylvania was almost entirely producing for the war effort. Producing radar and proximity tubes, as well as lighting products.

In 1944 the company purchased the Colonial Radio Corporation, and it became their Radio and Television Division, also making car radios. The name of the company became Sylvania, dropping the Hygrade name.

By 1950 Sylvania has seven divisions. Lighting including photoflash and fixtures, radio tubes, picture tubes, radio and television, electronics, parts, and tungsten and chemical.

In 1959 they merged with General Telephone to form GT&E. In 1964 Sylvania unveiled a new color television tube using europium-bearing phosphor for a much brighter red.

During the 70's GTE Sylvania became supplier of electrical equipment such as transformers, switchgear, breakers and panels. Vacuum cast coil transformers. In 1981 GTE Sylvania began selling off most of its electrical distribution equipment, and most of its product lines. In 1993 GTE exited the lighting business and concentrated on telecommunications.

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August 5 - Special thanks to Pat Kagi, Roland Smith, Estevan Mendoza and Bill Holeman it was a hard day's work. The crew picked up 100's of radios for the club.
- Franklin

Mechanical Television Reception on the West Coast
By Art Redman

The features of David Wark Griffith and his voice appeared in Los Angeles, California February 3, 1929 after features and voice, crossed North America by short wave from the television station WGY of the General Electric Company of Schenectady, New York. Dr. Ernst Alexanderson runs the station.

Gilbert Lee, an amateur experimenter of Los Angeles reported the speech was heard clearly throughout a 15-minute period and that the first few minutes the features of Griffith, the eyes, the nose, and mouth were clearly identified in the television image. Later, however, fading appeared and then only the head outline appeared discernible.

Griffith pioneer motion picture producer spoke from the studio of WGY from 7:30 pm to 7:45 pm broadcasting his address on its long wave station 2 XP. The 22.5-meter transmitter carried the 48-line scan picture and 2XAF operating on 31.48 meters transmitted the voice. Lee in Los Angeles received both television and speech by short wave at his home. Eugene Crippen at Oakland, California also tuned to the two short wave stations but reported only fair television reception.

Twenty thousand amateurs east of the Mississippi watched pantomime pictures broadcasted by of C. Francis Jenkins station located at Washington, DC W3XK. The station schedule during 1929 was three days a week 8 to 9 pm Eastern Standard Time on 46.72 meters (6.42 MHz) that makes it three hours earlier on the Pacific coast and impossible to receive by bounce off the Kennelly-Heaviside Layer. Cedar Rapids, Iowa was the westernmost city receiving W3XK.

For local audiences the only solution to the fading problem in pictured transmission is local broadcasting like 100 watts W7XAO of Portland, Oregon on a 100 kHz wide band. Jerman's W7XAO television permit expired on November 1, 1930. KWJJ obtained permission from Frank Lovejoy of the Seventh District, Radio Commission, to resume late night operations beginning May 8, 1931 and for television broadcasts between 1 and 6 am accordance with Central Order 50. Television parts for Portland experimenters became readily available when the Wedel Company of Seattle opened a branch office during April 1931 at 1207 SW Washington Street.

The *"Behind the Mike"* columnist and radio editor of *The Oregonian*, William Moyes, brought the first factory made television set to Portland at the National Radio Show, which ended June 21, 1931. The comments made by the President of NBC said, "The present of television of hit or miss (mostly miss) disc scanning is dead and television is not a long distance affair". The Vice President of NBC said, "Television exhibits at the Chicago radio show were far from convincing". Walter A. Schilling told Moyes "Television is the bunk. To see you need a quart of corn liquor, a strong cigar, and a heck of an imagination".

Hollis S. Baird of Boston made the receiver consisting of two separate cabinets, a short wave receiver and a Drum Scanner television unit capable of receiving in theory W1XAV of Boston, MA. W1XAV transmitted on 1600 to 1700 kHz, boasting 1 kilowatt of power and 60 lines scanning. A comparable The Baird Universal Television Receiver comes in a cabinet measuring 15 inches square. Instead of a vertical scanning disc, a steel scanning belt mounted on a horizontal disc called a spider. This belt has punched through it; sixty square holes each of which .01 of an inch on the sides, and forming a spiral line. The spider mounted on a spindle driven by a 1/20 horsepower ac motor revolving the steel belt. The neon lamp, which is located in the center space surrounding the sheet belt, projects a spot of light through each hole in succession reproducing 40,000 variations of light per second. The received picture on the plate of the neon tube is about one inch on the sides and a magnifying lens enlarges the 20 frames per second image to almost four inches square.

Moyes erected an aerial at his home after displaying the receiver at the Wedel Company. He never reported he received any television broadcasts, which sound like a buzz saw or television signals from Boston or elsewhere during 1931.

The *Oregonian* mentioned July 12, 1931 that it might be possible for Portland viewers to receive the Don Lee television W6X5 located at Los Angeles California. The Lee station transmitting with 80 lines and 15 frames per second and is not compatible with the Hollis Baird scanning drum systems. During December 1932, the Don Lee station transmitted on 140 meters from six to 7 pm daily except Sundays and received by a viewer in Seattle.

Meanwhile, Lee de Forest finished completion of television station W6XAH on January 6, 1932 in Bakersfield, California transmitting on 1560 kHz.

Bibliography:

Collins, Frederick A. Experimental Television: Lothrop, Lee & Shepard, Boston, 1932, pages 278, 279, 280.
"Features Seen Voice Is Heard on Short Wave", Oregon Journal, February 4, 1929, page three.
"Growth of Television Revealed When Station Closes", The Oregonian, April 14, 1929, page seven.
"Radio Victory Scored," The Oregonian, February 4, 1929, page 1.
"First Television Set Here", Ready for Aerial Pictures", the Oregonian, July 12, 1931, page 48.

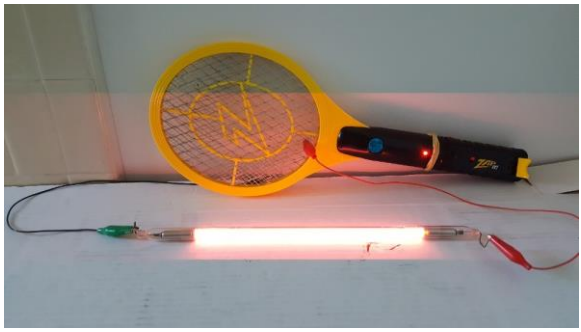
From The Oregonian, Portland, Oregon, Page 9:

Engineers to Meet—The December meeting of the Portland section of the Institute of Radio Engineers will be held in the physics room of Reed college Monday at 8 P. M. Dr. G. H. Brown of the RCA Manufacturing company will present a paper on "Vestigal Side-Band Filters for Use in Television Transmitters." A dinner will precede the meeting. It will be held in the Bohemian restaurant at 6:15 P. M.

10-4 on the Juice Box, Good Buddy!
By Hubert Miller

I don't recall quite how I came across this item. Oh yeah! - I was trying to find online a free schematic for a "Johnson Personal Messenger" CB from 1966. These are little "covers" you slide over a "juice box". I would like "maybe" to have one or two as collectibles, but I don't need a whole package of them. Plus I never buy juice boxes. I think, and this is also the smartest medical opinion on fruit juices, that they dump too much sugar into the system at one short time. But I think it's still a pretty cute item.
- Hue Miller

Dumb Experiment
No. 103-B
by Hubert Miller



Here's a dumb experiment I felt I just had to perform today.

I bought the basic equipment, the high voltage source, last week at a thrift store. It is one of those "bug zappers" with high voltage electrified screens that fry any insect unlucky enough to get stuck between the two screens. The two outer screens are one pole and the inner screen is the other. This particular model has a USB port for recharging. Most others I have seen are purely battery powered. (This model does not have the more expensive options of GPS, Bluetooth, or Internet addressability.) A thrift store attendant did not know the purpose of the instrument. I explained its use and that in the absence of sufficient insects, like here at the coast, it could also be applied to the butts of human beings. I demonstrated this possible use by touching the device to the butt of a possible developing girlfriend, but luckily the battery was discharged, or else that budding relationship might have abruptly terminated.

The other element of the experiment is a neon tube which I have owned about 30 years. I have no idea what it was from. Maybe a copy machine from somewhere in the past, I'm thinking? So today, trying to move ahead with triaging stuff, thought I'd try to establish if the neon tube was good or just toss it. The jumpers are connected to outer and inner screens. A rubber band holds down the pushbutton. I guesstimate the voltage to light the tube as maybe 1200+ volts, but that's only a guess. I have had enough shocks in my life that I'm now quite cautious. I recall as youngsters my brother and I found a large heavy neon sign transformer dumped in an alley behind a store. That beast put out 15,000 volts at lots of milliamps and could kill you dead. We had a lot of fun drawing long sparks from it, electrifying piles of coins and such and making a "Jacob's Ladder" like in some old science-horror movies (I'm told). My parents would have blown a fuse if they had known what we were up to. Nowadays this is known as a "free range youth".
Yours for safety – remember to keep one hand in pocket. - Hue Miller

Those wiped out tube numbers
By Hubert Miller

I had this mystery tube from a boat radio. I could figure out what the tube was by drawing out the socket wiring, but I wanted to try something different first. Sylvania in their wisdom put the tube number right on top the tube, so that the rising heat concentrated there would erode the print, making more fun for the future owner. There was only one digit showing, 7.

I put the tube in the fridgerator freezer for some hours and then pulled it out. I tried to get a photo, but the frost melts in only a few seconds. When you pull the tube from the freezer, you have to turn it at various angles and try to quickly figure out what the possible faint numbers are. In this case, I got 8 as the last number. The middle character looked like "B" but I can't be sure.

Anyway, my sub book says 7A8 and 7B8 are okay subs, and there is no 7C8 tube, and 7F8 is a shorter tube, so I think I have enough info to conclude that this is the converter tube in this radio. The other kinks I have read for decoding a wiped – out tube number, wiping the tube on your hair, nonsense; breathing on the tube number, not nearly as effective as the freezer.

I tried this tubes a few cycles through the freezer and I noticed the faint number degrades more, so you want to make your first effort a good one. Move fast! - Hue Miller

(Photo shows tube fresh out of freezer, but not at best angle to show number.)

Swap Shop

Ads are free and can be permanent, or 3-month, with an asterisk added each month for tracking. Contact editor to extend.
Please contact the following members to be trained in Radio Repair:

Jan and Glenn Anderson	425 750 7600	Longview
Blake Dietze	360 944-7172	Vancouver
Mike McCrow	503 730-4639	Aloha
Ed Tompkins	360 573-3895	Vancouver

WANTED: Radios made in Oregon. I do have some to trade. Thanks in advance. Dick Howard (503) 775-6697 dhoward27@comcast.net

Help: Needed and Wanted - Sonny Clutter
https://www.radiolaguy.com/Wanted%20Items.htm

FOR SALE: Philco Model 20 Table Top for $70 and a Silvertone Model 6074 1930 Tabletop $50. Have a good day. Call Robbie Robinson 503 810 0565

Hi everyone. I am in need of a meter lens for a Heathkit IM-32 VTVM. Parts instrument, or meter with lens. Thanks. Mike McCrow 503-7304639

I collect and restore record players / phonographs with tubes, any and all table tops, portables, even Consoles! If you have one with tubes that is in your way, and that you would like to get rid of or sell cheaply, please get in touch with me. I also will repair or restore yours if you need help in that way. Email me a picture, or give me a call. Thanks! John Livingston 503-708-2987

Military radios: 2 ea. R392 receivers, 2 ea. R662 transceivers, 1 ea. AM3349 400 watt RF amplifier. Complete but untested and came from the estate of a very active local ham. Lots of cables and manuals too. $1200 for everything. Tektronix 575 curve tracer. Includes the high voltage testing mod and Tek cart and original manual. Does not power on. No further troubleshooting has been done. - $350 Bill Holeman bpasok@live.com

FOR SALE: Edison Chalet diamond disc wind up phonograph. Works well and is fairly uncommon to find. $125.00
Victor Victrola Model IX wind up phonograph works well & in nice shape. $150.00 Pics available. Contact Pat at patkagi@yahoo.com Thanks, Pat

In search of 2 knobs for a Westinghouse H026 in brown.
Hunting for a Toshiba 7TP30 in black.
Cosmetic clean ====>
Franklin Ouchida crazykeychains@gmail.com

PSARA and NWVRS Proudly present the Annual
Antique/Vintage Technology Market

Saturday, August 21st. 2021 - 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

1354 Pleasant Valley Road, Chehalis, WA 98532

Free Parking, Free Admision, no Buyer or Seller Fees

Vintage electronic gear from the 'teens - 1970s, such as TV, Radio, Ham, Audio, Video & Phono may be seen traded or purchased.

For more info, contact: psarapresident@cloud.com or NWVRS@yahoo.com

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